Middlebury Vt. Apr. 17th 1848

Dear Brother:

Your friendly letter of Mar. 30th was duly recieved, and with pleasure read. I am highly gratified that you are so well prospered in your studies, and especially that you have been led to hope in Christ. Religion is the great concern of mortals here below; It is worth infinitely more than wealth or fame, or all this world can bestow; more precious than the sparkling gem, or even an acquaintence with all human knowledge. It is a treasure of infinite value, inasmuch as the reward which it brings is of infinite duration: and rash indeed must be that mortal man, who deems it a matter of too small moment to engage his chief attention, while he sojourns here, a probationer for eternity. May the Lord bless you in your efforts to serve him, and strengthen you in the discharge of every duty.

Notwithstanding the perusal of your letter, for the most part, gave me much pleasure, there was one thing which rather excited my sympathy. And that was, to learn that you were really homesick, just as I told you you would be. — Ha! ha! ha! Well, I thought as how you would like to see maam before the term was out, and was therefore expecting to hear just such news as you wrote me. I know there are some things at Meriden that make a small boy feel rather

contemplative sometimes; - I myself occasionally used to imagine that I enjoyed the companionship of those comforters, surnamed "the blues". But Pah! nonsense! that will never do for a boy of sixteen, and especially for a Schoolmaster. It is all folly. When you begin to feel in a melancholy mood, just run out of doors and take a long race in the wind; and if it blows of your hat, — no matter; you can pick it up when you come along back. Make a few calls among your fellow students, and have a good chat with them. Ask them if they ever saw your brother homesick when he was there; — guess they'd tell ya no. Just think how you used last winter, to show the boys to the door, and train them with the fire shovel, and numerous other things which pertain to the duties of a pedagogue; and then ask yourself, if all these daring achievements are consistent with being overcome by homesickness. A few such considerations would doubtless drive away these interlopers in the world of thought, and you would be yourself again. It will be but a short time now, before your term will be out, when you can go home with a merry heart. I dare say however you will wish to go directly back again. To be sure, Meriden is not the most pleasant place in the world for a stranger, But I think I could enjoy myself much better there than where I am now. For here at college, we are stowed away in our cells, where nobody sees us, and we see nobody. We have to make our books almost our only companions, — and these are quite enough

sometimes.

We get along here much after the old fashion. I have not studied very hard this term, but perhaps as hard as my health would permit safely. Some days I have not felt very well, but for the most part, have enjoyed good health. Junior exhibition comes off in about ten days, after which we shall have a vacation of one week. Then we shall have to commence a long siege I suppose. I wish it were not so far but that I might go to Meriden and spend vacation. It would be a great pleasure to be with you one week. But as circumstances are, I shall probably spend the vacation in Middlebury. Are the Academy boys going to have an exhibition this term? Doubtless there will be some crack orators upon the stage. You wrote that there would perhaps be no catalogues printed this spring. Why so? I supposed that would be a matter of course, and was hoping to receive one.

We have heard nothing from Langdon since your letter was received.

Other business compelling me to hasten, you must excuse me from writing more at this time. My respects to your Mama, and all other friends.

As ever, your affectionate brother,

Solon.

(P.S) Write often.

Solon. Albee
1848.

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